

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 061238

ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 061238

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET

SUBJECT: PRESENCE OF WESTERN PRESS IN ETHIOPIA

REF: ADDIS ABABA 1594

1. DEPARTMENT WELCOMES YOUR OFFER TO RAISE WITH MOFA
AND MININFO QUESTION OF REPORTED EPMG INTENTION TO
EXPEL WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS, A MATTER WHICH WASHPOST
FOREIGN EDITOR DISCUSSED MARCH 17 WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY
SCHAUFEE. WE AGREE THERE IS MERIT IN AIRING THIS
MATTER WITH EPMG BEFORE IT BECOMES AN ACCOMPLISHED
FACT.

2. ACCORDINGLY, THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES YOU SHOULD
DISCUSS PROBLEM WITH UK AND FRENCH MISSIONS AND SEEK
THEIR AGREEMENT TO MAKE SELECTIVE DEMARCHES ON CROSS
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PAGE 02 STATE 061238

SECTION OF APPROPRIATE ETHIOPIAN OFFICIALS. IN THIS
WAY DUPLICATION OF EFFORTS CAN BE AVOIDED. WE BELIEVE
IT WOULD BE BEST IF BRITISH AND FRENCH COLLEAGUES COULD
AGREE THAT YOU MAKE REPRESENTATION TO MOFA AND, IF THEY
AGREE, ALSO TO MININFO.

3. IF YOUR COLLEAGUES WISH TO SEEK INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE

JOINING OUR DEMARCHE YOU SHOULD TELL THEM THAT WE BELIEVE TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. DEPT LEAVES TO YOUR DISCRETION WHETHER A DAY OR TWO DELAY TO GET COLLEAGUES ABOARD WOULD BE TOO LONG A DELAY. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE A SOLO DEMARCHE IF NECESSARY.

4. WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR DEMARCHE TO EPMG, YOU SHOULD MAKE POINT THAT YOU ARE ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPARTMENT. YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT WESTERN PRESS IS INTERESTED IN EVENTS IN ETHIOPIA, ONE OF AFRICA'S MOST IMPORTANT COUNTRIES. TO REMOVE WESTERN PRESS FROM ETHIOPIA WOULD LESSEN ABILITY OF WESTERN PUBLIC AND OPINION LEADERS TO OBTAIN FACTS AND UNDERSTAND THE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION, AND WOULD SERIOUSLY TARNISH THE IMAGE OF ETHIOPIA.

5. AT YOUR DISCRETION, YOU MAY WISH TO SUGGEST TO ECA AND OAU OFFICIALS THAT PRESENCE WESTERN PRESS IS IMPORTANT TO THEM AND THEY MAY WISH TO WEIGH IN ON BEHALF ITS CONTINUED PRESENCE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IN 1975 WHEN REUTERS AND AFP CORRESPONDENTS WERE EXPELLED FROM ETHIOPIA, BOTH OAU AND ECA COMPLAINED BITTERLY TO EPMG THAT THEIR ORGANIZATIONS WERE RECEIVING INADEQUATE COVERAGE IN EUROPE. RESULTANT PRESSURE FORCED EPMG TO WITHDRAW THE EXPULSIONS.
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Sent Date: 19-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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